2007 Legislative Update Transportation Funding Legislation



2007 Transportation Funding Legislation

- HB 173 (Rep. Bob Holmes)
- HB 434 (Rep. Chuck Martin)
- HB 442 (Chairman Vance Smith)
- HR 509 (Chairman Vance Smith)
- SR 341 (Senator Curt Thompson)
- SR 365 (Chairman Jeff Mullis)

HB 173

Sales and use tax; local option; transportation; special districts Sponsored by Rep. Bob Holmes

 This legislation allows for metro Atlanta counties to form a regional SPLOST, whose proceeds would be used to fund transportation, with a significant portion for transit.

HB434

Regional sales and use tax for transportation

Sponsored by: Representative Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta)

This legislation permits the implementation of a sales and use tax for transportation investment on a regional basis.

Points of the Bill:

- •Two or more counties enter into a intergovernmental agreement and hold a regionally-binding funding referendum.
- •GRTA initiates the planning process
- •Counties participate, along with cities, in a regional conference to negotiate a regional transportation plan.
- •The plan identifies regional transportation projects, including roads, bridges, transit systems, buses, and airports.

(cont.) HB434 Regional sales and use tax for transportation (*Rep. Martin*)

- Counties may opt out of the planning process with 2/3 vote of their county commissions, even after project list is finished.
- The plan must be adopted by 2/3 of the conferees.
- Counties have 60 days to nullify participation by a 2/3 vote of the county commission.
- Referendums in each participating county held on same day.
- The region as a whole adopts a regional 1% sales tax.
- The sunset date is set in the intergovernmental agreement.
- GRTA adopts plan, if a majority of the counties withdraw, or if counties are unable to develop a plan.
- A taxpayer oversight committee audits project completion.
- Regions may use special funding through SRTA for projects.

HB 442-Sales and use tax; transportation; state-wide 1¢ tax

Sponsored by Rep. Vance Smith, Chairman, House Transportation Committee

This legislation provides for a state-wide 1¢ sales tax for transportation that is contingent upon referendum approval by the voters of the state, with election to be held in Nov. 2008.

Bill Overview

- •Time Frame -10 years (completed and under construction projects)
- •Generates \$22.2 Billion
- Statewide 1¢ sales tax
- Revenues managed by the Transportation Trust Fund Agency

(cont.) HB 442
Sales and use tax; transportation; state-wide 1¢ tax

Transit Provisions

- Underwrite difference in farebox and operating cost for:
 - •All local transit systems including MARTA
 - •Express Bus and BRT
- Capital funding up to \$500M for Atlanta Streetcar
- •Fund MAG-LEV Hi-Speed Train Study from Savannah through Atlanta to Town Center for transit and freight \$1.5M
- •Total for Transit: \$450M annually or \$4.5 B over 10yrs.

(cont.) HB 442
Sales and use tax; transportation; state-wide 1¢ tax

MARTA Options

- Pay off debt in 5 years (Fulton and DeKalb debt relief)
- 10-year Sales Tax Holiday for Fulton and DeKalb (one-cent sales tax goes to state rather than MARTA)

House Resolution 509 Creation of the Transportation Trust Fund

Sponsored by Representative Vance Smith

A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution as required in order to hold a constitutional amendment vote throughout the state of Georgia to levy a 1 percent sales and use tax on the purchase of tangible goods and certain services at retail. The proceeds from the 1 percent sales and use tax will fund the pre-selected statewide transportation projects proposed in HB442. This resolution accompanies HB 442.

(cont.) House Resolution 509 Creation of the Transportation Trust Fund

The resolution will also provides for the following:

- Creation of a Transportation Trust Fund
- Deposit of the proceeds of such tax into such trust fund
- Governance of such trust fund by the State Transportation Board and oversight of such trust fund by a Transportation Trust Fund Oversight Committee
- Administration of such fund by a Transportation Trust Fund Agency; to provide for purposes and limitations on expenditures from such trust fund
- Periodic submission of the continuance of such levy to the people for approval or disapproval; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; and for other purposes

SR 341

Motor Fuel Taxes; funds appropriated; adequate system of public roads/bridges; transportation purposes

Sponsored by: Senator Curt Thompson

This resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution to allow funds derived from motor fuel taxes to be used for transportation purposes other than public roads and bridges. This resolution would also allow for motor fuel taxes to be used for transit (operations and maintenance).

SR 365

Transportation Funding; create joint study committee

Sponsored by Senator Jeff Mullis

A resolution creating the Joint Study Committee on Transportation Funding. It's assumed that no action will be taken on any of the transportation funding legislation during this legislative session. Instead, it's our belief that all the transportation funding bills will be sent to this joint study committee for further discussion.

